

February 11, 2010

The Board of Public Works & Safety met at 4:00 p.m. on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Fuelling and Higgins attending. Others attending were Chief Waters; Chief Beloit; Asst. St. Comm. Miller; Supt. Givens; Cynthia Smith – MSD of Mount Vernon; and Pam Robinson – Posey County News.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented. Board member Higgins moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker requested action on the claims presented.

Board member Fuelling moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

*****CLAIMS*****

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports the Departments.

Chief Beloit stated he has no report, but Cynthia Smith is present with a presentation on behalf of Safe Schools Healthy Students and the MSD.

Ms. Smith approached the podium and presented the following:

The Check and Connect Truancy program

The Metropolitan School District of Mt. Vernon (MSDMV) would like to submit a \$5,000 grant proposal to the Posey County Community Foundation in collaboration with the Mt. Vernon Police Department. The program being proposed is modeled after the Check and Connect program, an evidence-based truancy prevention program in Minnesota, to address the educational needs of those students at risk for not attending school. If funded, this program would start August 2010 through May 2011. This new program is designed to promote high school students' engagement with the school and to prevent youth from missing school due to truancy issues.

Why is the MSDMV submitting this proposal ? As part of the Safe Schools Healthy Students initiative serving Posey, Gibson, and Warrick County

schools, the MSDMV piloted a data reporting guide examining school office referrals. The first semester of the 2009-2010 school year identified that truancy is in the top three reasons for why a student is referred to the office at Mt. Vernon Senior High School. Fifteen percent of the office referrals were for truancy, defined as a violation of school attendance policy for failing to report to assigned classes which occur without the knowledge or permission of parent/guardian. Currently, when the student returns to school, the student is sent to the Attendance Officer. This position has been eliminated due to budget cuts for the 2010/2011 school year and will fall to the high school administrators dealing with the other 85% of office referrals. There will be a number of youth at risk for not connection to someone who will be checking on their school attendance on a consistent basis. Based on the 2008/09 school year in which twenty-one students were suspended and five students were expelled from school for truancy, we anticipate serving twenty students (at the minimum) in the new program.

Why involved the Mt. Vernon Police Department ? The Check and Connect model involved outreach to family members through home visits, as the monitor seeks to share and exchange information about the student's educational progress. Due to safety concerns around home visits, we are proposing using law enforcement officers as the monitors. This new program will utilize the Mt. Vernon Police Department by dedicating two officers with the role of being the "check and connect" people for students who are truant from school. This provides added benefits to the program by allowing uniformed police officers to be in the school for the specific reason of check on the school attendance of truant youth. Research indicates that failure in school (being expelled) is predictive of troublesome behavior and possibly future criminal behavior. In 2009 the Mt. Vernon Police Department recorded 46 juvenile arrests, at 64% increase from 2008. By having law enforcement officers in the schools checking on youth who are at risk for being suspended or expelled from school due to truancy, the program may reduce the local juvenile crime rate.

Funding for this program will come from two main sources, the Posey County Community Foundation and the Safe Schools Healthy Students grant, with a total cost of \$10,000. Funds will be distributed to the Mount Vernon Police Department monthly with property invoicing for the police officers' time.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me or visit www.sshs-siscc.org Cynthia Smith, SSHS Program Director, 812-833-5131 (phone), smithcj@msdmv.k12.in.us.

Ms. Smith then asked if there were any questions ?

Board member Fuelling asked how many adults will be dealing with the possibly 20 at risk students ?

Ms. Smith replied two offices – each will have 10. She added at the high school level, the administrative staff and the principal will handle the issue.

Mayor Tucker asked if this will take the place of the attendance officer ?

Ms. Smith replied this is a program for only those youth that are at risk. She then stated the assistant principal and the principal will deal with most of the issues at their school – this is a more intensive program.

Board member Fuelling stated it sounds good to him.

Board member Higgins asked if this will stretch Chief Beloit's department too thin ?

Chief Beloit replied the program is grant funded, and no funds will be coming out of his budget, or the MSD's budget. He then stated he has the manpower, when he is fully staffed and this could actually bring some money in to them from the grant.

Board member Fuelling added that is good.

Board member Higgins stated she has no problem with the program.

Chief Beloit added it really is a good thing.

Ms. Smith stated they are also hoping the program will have an academic impact.

Board member Fuelling moved the Board accept the program and recommend the project. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions of Chief Beloit ?

There were none.

Chief Waters stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Supt. Givens stated he would like permission for himself and Dennis Givens to attend an IWEA meeting February 24, 2010 in Jasper on Residual Biosolids. He added they would like also need permission to use the city truck and credit card. He also stated there is another meeting in Jasper on February 18 that he would like to attend for the Young Alliance Group for operators. He added he and Mr. Epison have been to one, this would be their second and they would also like to take the city truck and city credit card.

Supt. Givens concluded his report by stating final pay application #9 to ISI has been all cleared up and ISI should be paid off by the end of the month.

Board member Higgins moved Dennis Givens and Supt. Givens be permitted to attend the IWEA meeting and use the city truck and city credit card. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Supt. Givens then stated that sometimes these meetings come up before there is a Board meeting. He was wondering if Board could give him permission to attend these so he doesn't have to ask each time – all meetings are local and do not require over nights.

Board member Higgins stated she has no problem with that but she would like for Supt. Givens to send an email notifying them that he is out of town, in case there is an emergency.

Supt. Givens agreed.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Asst. St. Comm. Miller stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any Legals ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

Board member Fuelling stated the Board needs to officially reject all previous bids on the silo demolition. He added if the City is successful in getting a grant for the project, the project will have to be rebid – the original bids have also expired. He then moved the Board officially reject all previous bids in the silo demolition. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated on February 19 at 9:30 a.m. there will be an informational meeting at city hall on the riverfront project. He added the bids are out, they have a low bid and BLA has an office here at city hall as well. He then stated they have a Notice to Proceed and Phase I will start as soon as the weather breaks. With that being said, he stated if there was no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Board member Fuelling moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Board member Higgins.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned meeting.

John Tucker
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cristi L. Wolfe
Clerk-Treasurer